	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/633,216	HEINEMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel L. Greene	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *10/08/2004*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *2-4,7,10,11 and 19*.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *11/30/2004* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with John Kramer on 11/30/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 19 wherein said rule data are

~~comparison statements~~ stored in a rules database.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 19, wherein said payment

data includes financial data for input to an accounting system of the billable party.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 19, wherein said payment

data includes electronic funds transfer (EFT) data.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 19, further comprising the

steps of:

        generating a summary message specifying a billing data total amount to be paid; and

        automatically electronically notifying said billing party of said summary message.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 19, further comprising the step

of providing interactive computer screens so that said billable party supplies analysis data for

inclusion in billing data analysis reports.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said analysis data

includes case budget data including total case time, case hours, case costs, hourly rate, and

case difficulty.

12-18. (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method for automatically processing billing data

generated by a billing party for payment for services provided to a billable party, said method

comprising the steps of:

automatically obtaining billing data in an electronic format from the billing party, said

billing data including a listing of the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as part of the

services rendered to the billable party, wherein: the listing includes a plurality of single time

billing entries each representing time spent by a billing party staff member in performing one of

the specific tasks or a portion thereof; and the single time billing entries are identified by billing

codes representing the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as part of the services

rendered;

automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party,

wherein a portion of the rule data relates to assessing the single time billing entries for the

specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as part of the services rendered to the billable

party; and

automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said

comparison with said rule data[[.]] , wherein:

the rule data comprises a plurality of warning rules and a plurality of error

rules;

the step of automatically comparing the billing data with the rule data comprises the

sub-steps of, if the billing data fails to satisfy any of the error rules: ceasing further evaluation of

the billing data; and automatically electronically notifying the billing party that the billing data

failed to satisfy the error rules, without automatically authorizing generation of payment data;

and

the step of automatically authorizing generation of payment data comprise the sub-

steps of:

if the billing data satisfies all the warning rules and error rules, automatically

authorizing generation of payment data according to the billing data; and

if the billing data satisfies all the error rules but not all the warning rules:

automatically authorizing generation of payment data according to the billing data; and

automatically electronically notifying the billing party that the billing data failed to satisfy the

warning rules.

20. (Cancelled)

As per claim 19, the closest prior arts of record, Crooks et al. U.S. Patent

5,943,656, Brown U.S. Patent 5,875,435 and Landry U.S. Patent 5,956,700 taken

either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest

if the billing data satisfies all the error rules but not all the warning rules, automatically

authorizing payment and notifying the billing party that the billing data failed to satisfy

the warning rules.

The specific allowable feature, which distinguishes the present invention over the

prior art is if the billing data satisfies all the error rules but not all the warning rules,

automatically authorizing payment and notifying the billing party that the billing data

failed to satisfy the warning rules. The prior art halts the transaction if any irregularities

are noted. .

Claims 2-4, 7, and 10-11 are dependent upon Claim 1 and thus have all the

limitations of claim 1 and are allowable for that reason.

Conclusion

2.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

3.   3,852,571 12/1974 Hall et al.

4.   4,485,300 11/1984 Peirce

5.   4,701,601 10/1987 Francini et al.

6.   4,734,564 3/1988 Boston et al.

7.   4,484,304 11/1984 Anderson et al.

8.   4,799,156 1/1989 Shavit et al.

9.   .

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Daniel L. Greene whose telephone number is 703-306-

5539. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur. 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-

872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12/08/2004

DLG

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